



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Badger School District Number 18
 other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Southeast Corner of Main Street and First Avenue [N/A] not for publication
 city or town Badger [N/A] vicinity _____
 state South Dakota code SD county Kingsbury code 077 zip code 57214

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
 nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt State Historic Preservation Officer 06-19-2006
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
 (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 8-2-06 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Schools in South Dakota

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education - School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood

roof Wood (historic); Asphalt (current)

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Periods of Significance

1909-1956

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Badger School District Number 18
Name of Property

Kingsbury County, South Dakota
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 14 642463 4927282
 Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jason Haug – Historic Preservation Specialist

organization South Dakota SHPO date 5-18-2006

street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone (605)773-6296

city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Badger

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Badger state SD zip code 57214

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Badger School District Number 18
Kingsbury County, South Dakota

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Badger School is located on the southeast corner of the Main Street and First Avenue intersection in the town of Badger in the northeast corner Kingsbury County, South Dakota. The school sits on the northwest corner of what is now a city park that encompasses an entire city block. The block is outlined with trees and is surrounded by residential areas on all four sides. To the south and east of the school are several pieces of playground equipment.

The one-story two-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1909 atop a stone foundation with a thirty foot by fifty-four foot rectangular plan. It has wood clapboard siding. The hipped roof is clad with asphalt shingles which replaced the historic wood shingles in 1985.

The façade (north elevation) historically featured a belfry with a pyramidal roof directly above the front door on the center of the elevation. The elevation also historically had a central arched entry flanked on each side by three two-over-two double hung windows. A small shed entry was built over the front doorway in 1935 and the bell and belfry were removed in 1956. The window immediately right of the doorway was also closed in 1935 to allow for construction of the shed entry. The outline of this window is visible from the interior. The shed entry features a double door on the east side and two small rectangular windows on the north side. Basement windows, one on each side of the shed entry, have been boarded up.

The east and west elevations are identical with three two-over-two double hung windows evenly spaced across the elevation with two basement windows. The east elevation windows and the basement windows on both elevations have been boarded up but remain intact underneath.

In 1937 an eight foot by eighteen foot addition was built onto the south elevation to incorporate indoor bathrooms into the school. This addition has a hipped roof with exposed rafters. The west side of the addition has a single one-over-one double hung window. From left to right across the south elevation is a double door on ground level followed by a two one-over-one double hung windows, a three panel with four-light door, and another one-over-one double hung window all across the main level of the school. The east side of the addition has no openings. One boarded-up basement window is visible immediately to the right of the addition.

Facing south inside the front shed entry is a staircase ascending to the original front entry on the left and another staircase descending to the basement on the right. The original arched entry that was covered by the 1935 entry is visible from the interior. Next behind this entry is a pair of five-paneled wood doors with an eleven-light transom window above that would have been the original exterior doors. Behind these doors is a hallway that separates the two classrooms to the east and west. At the end of the hall in the 1937 addition are two restrooms. To the right (west) at the end of the hallway is a staircase that also descends to the basement. The interior of the building retains a high level of integrity. The original hardwood floors, lathe and plaster walls and ceilings, wooden doors, interior transom windows, and wood molding is intact.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Badger School District Number 18
Kingsbury County, South DakotaSection number 8 Page 2**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Badger School is locally significant under Criterion A in the context of education for its role in the educational development and school consolidation in rural South Dakota during the first half of the twentieth century. The building reflected the local community's commitment to education as it served continuously as the primary location for educating children from its construction in 1909 until it closed in May 1974.

Kingsbury County, South Dakota is part of the state's Central Lowlands region, which encompasses much of the state east of the Missouri River. This area contains flat to gently rolling prairie land with several lakes left over from the glaciers that covered the northeast region of the state. Kingsbury County was organized in 1879 during the early stages of the First Dakota Boom, the first great wave of migration into South Dakota that lasted roughly from 1878 to 1887. Like most counties in eastern South Dakota, settlement in Kingsbury County was spurred by construction of the railroad combined with the availability of land. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was built through Kingsbury County during the early 1880s and consequently most of the County's settlement occurred during this time.¹

The town of Badger was formed in 1907 when the South Dakota Central built north from Sioux Falls and through Kingsbury County on its way to Watertown. Over the next five years several buildings were constructed, including a depot, three elevators, a bank, two general stores, a hardware store, a church, and two community halls.² The town was not incorporated until 1917.

Among those buildings constructed shortly after the town's formation was the nominated Badger School. The first schools houses in Badger Township were built during the mid 1880s. Shortly after Badger was established with the construction of the railroad, articles in local newspapers began appearing calling for construction of a school in Badger. The nearest school had been located one mile west and another two miles south of Badger. Possible options for Kingsbury County had included moving the nearest school one mile east closer to town, divide the school district into two and construct another school, or selling the nearest school and constructing a larger one. The final decision was made to construct another school, the nominated District #18 School, within Badger.

School opened in the fall of 1909 with twenty-four students, all housed in the east room of the two-room school as the west room was yet to be completed.³ From 1909 until the school closed in 1974, the average enrollment was about forty students. The school housed kindergarten through eighth grades until 1919 when it added ninth grade. But as this was not feasible for the district, ninth grade was discontinued in 1923. In 1938, neighboring District #15 and #45 began sending students to the Badger school. A significant reorganization of school districts in Kingsbury and Brookings Counties occurred in 1965 when voters approved a plan to create fifteen new school districts in Kingsbury County and seventeen in Brookings County. Under this plan, first through sixth grades were continued at the Badger school. By 1974 only the first through fourth grades were held in Badger and in May the

¹ Westerly Group, *Kingsbury County Historic Sites Survey Final Report* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1998), 9.

² George A. Hall, *120 Years of Kingsbury County* (Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, Inc., 1993), 23-24.

³ *Arlington Sun*, 18 September 1908, 3; 26 March 1909, 1; 3 December 1909, 3.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Badger School District Number 18
Kingsbury County, South DakotaSection number 8 Page 3

school closed, ending sixty-five years of continued use.⁴

Public schools constructed in South Dakota represented the local settlers' acknowledgement of a universal right to education for all children. To fulfill this right, schools were supported at public expense to extend education beyond the financially privileged to all members of society. As over sixty percent of settlers in South Dakota in 1900 were foreign born, the local public school was used as a way to "Americanize" immigrants by bridging their various cultural and religious differences with a common American identity. Likewise, a great emphasis was placed on civic responsibility and patriotism.

Also, in rural America, schools were seen as a prime venue to socialize children. As many "Progressives" believed rural communities faced greater limitations than larger cities, schools were seen as a prime venue to teach rural children more modern ideas and concepts related to health and standards of living where they could then in turn take these ideas into the home. In order to bring many of the principles advanced by Progressive reformers to the local level and hopefully in turn elevate the level of education in rural areas, standardized policies for both the curriculum and the school building were adopted at the state level with financial aid from the state contingent upon compliance at the local level.⁵

Architecturally, the earliest schools on the frontier were dugouts, sod, or log schoolhouses. As railroads drew settlement further west into South Dakota beginning in the 1880s, settlers turned to balloon-framed schools as commercially manufactured materials, such as dimension lumber, shingles, tongue-in-groove flooring, and siding, were now readily available by rail. Prairie school forms in turn shifted to those familiar to the local settlers, often influenced by and similar to local church designs. Most were rectangular in plan with a single room, included a vestibule, clad with wood clapboard siding, wainscoting on the interior, and occasionally a bell and belfry above the front entrance. Other forms were also rectangular but featured a hipped roof and included differing interior arrangements, often for multiple classrooms. By 1907, many schools were constructed according to specific standards adopted by the state.⁶

For the town of Badger, the nominated school represents these historic patterns on a local level. Flag etiquette was regularly taught in the Badger School. A Young Citizens League meeting was also held weekly in the school where students were taught and used parliamentary procedures. The school also followed and implemented state guidelines for curricula and examinations.⁷ The schools construction also represented typical design and form of similarly sized schools of the time, including the hipped roof, wood clapboard siding, bell and belfry, and two classrooms with a central hall separating them.

⁴ *Backtracking to Badger, 1907-1982* (Badger, SD: Badger Diamond Jubilee Committee, 1982), 17-25.

⁵ Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota: An Educational Development* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1998), 2-21.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 5-7.

⁷ *Backtracking to Badger*, 17-25.

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National Park Service**Badger School District Number 18
Kingsbury County, South DakotaSection number 8 Page 4

The school has undergone a few alterations since its construction. In 1935 a small shed entry was built over the front entrance that provided interior access to both the main floor of the school as well as the basement. In 1937 an addition an eight by eighteen foot addition was built onto the south side of the school to allow for indoor bathrooms. And in 1956 the bell and belfry that had been located above the front entry were removed.⁸ The school's period of significance extends from its construction in 1909 to 1956, the accepted fifty-year closing date. Because all alterations to the building occurred within this period of significance, the building retains sufficient integrity from its period of significance to convey its historic association with education in Badger.

The Badger School Number 18 is thus eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significant role in the educational development of Badger, SD during the first half of the twentieth century.

⁸ *Backtracking to Badger, 17-25.*

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Badger School District Number 18
Kingsbury County, South DakotaSection number 9 & 10 Page 5**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Backtracking to Badger, 1907-1982. Badger, SD: Badger Diamond Jubilee Committee, 1982.

Elliot, Mark and Melissa Dir. *Schools in South Dakota: An Educational Development.* Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1998.

Hall, George A. *120 Years of Kingsbury County.* Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, Inc., 1993.

Westerly Group. *Kingsbury County Historic Sites Survey Final Report.* Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1999.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The school is located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, T1120N, R53W. The boundary for the school follows the legal description of the property which is Block 7 of the Original Plat of the Town of Badger, Kingsbury County, South Dakota. The property is bounded to the north by Main Street, to the west by First Avenue, and to the south by South Street. The eastern boundary of the property is an imaginary line that follows the eastern legal boundary of Block 7 and is visible along the southeast corner of the block by a row of trees.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the entire property historically associated with the school and currently associated with the city park.